

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE RALEIGH NC
800 AM EDT SUN MAY 25 2014

...THIS WEEK IS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK FOR 2014...

Today marks the first day of the 2014 Hurricane Preparedness Week. This is the time for everybody who lives in hurricane prone coastal states to make weather-readiness a priority and examine how each of us in the coastlines across the United States can be *a force of nature*. All week long the National Weather Service will issue informative messages to help you prepare for the hurricane season. Topics covered this week will include storm surge, winds, inland flooding, forecast process, and planning and action.

North Carolina is one of the most hurricane ravaged states in the country. A look back at our hurricane history tells the story. Nearly 20 percent of all tropical systems pass within at least 300 miles of North Carolina. In any given year there is a one in three chance that our state will experience a hurricane landfall. A major hurricane threatens North Carolina at least once every 11 years. The last storm to make landfall as a hurricane in North Carolina was Hurricane Irene in 2011. The last major hurricane to threaten and impact the state was Hurricane Fran in 1996.

Since records have been kept dating back to 1806, over 70 tropical systems have made direct landfall on the North Carolina coast. Even more disturbing is the fact that around 100 tropical systems have moved through the area impacting the state without actually making landfall along our coast. North Carolina's unique geography with respect to its protruding coastline makes the state a favorable target for hurricanes. Residents living in the eastern half of North Carolina from Raleigh to the coast protrude out into the Atlantic Ocean along the same longitude as the Florida coast and Bahamas. This geographical fact makes the coast from Wilmington to Cape Hatteras the most favorable location for hurricane and tropical storm landfalls.

The most active months for tropical systems in North Carolina are August and September. However, hurricanes have wreaked havoc as early as late June and as late as mid-November. The peak tropical activity usually occurs in a six week period from mid-August to late September. During active cycles in hurricane activity North Carolina can experience multiple hurricanes and tropical storms within weeks of each other.

When it comes to this hurricane season, being *a force of nature* means taking appropriate action and inspiring others to do the same. An informed and motivated public will transform the way the United States responds to hurricane seasons and, ultimately, save more lives and livelihoods. Make a pledge to prepare for this hurricane season, complete an emergency preparedness plan, make or update your emergency kit, and be an example by sharing your preparedness story with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

For more information about hurricane preparedness, please visit the following web sites:

- <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare>
- <http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>